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PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS.

GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments, Patrick-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, July 5th, 1854,

COLONEL WILLIAMS, K. H.,
in the Chair.

Present, the following members :—

Rev. John Browne, LL.D.	John James, Esq., L. R. C. S. I.
Mr. Piers Butler.	Zachariah Johnson, Esq., M. D.,
Robert Cane, Esq., M. D.	F. R. C. S. I.
H. P. Clarke, Esq.	J. G. A. Prim, Hon. Sec.
Abraham Denroche, Esq.	James G. Robertson, Esq.
Rev. J. Graves, A. B., Hon. Sec.	Richard Wheeler, Esq., J. P.

The following new members were elected :—

Captain Bunbury, Patrick-street, Kilkenny; Richard Caulfield, Esq., A. B., Cork; John Mosse, Esq., Ballyconra, Ballyragget; and James Murphy, Esq., Dublin: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

John Wood, Esq., Somerton, Castlecomer; Robert B. Wright, Esq., Foulksrath Castle, Freshford; and Edward B. Taylor, Esq., Gowran: proposed by A. Denroche, Esq.

Horatio Townsend, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 27, Molesworth-street, Dublin; and Thaddeus O'Mahony, Esq., Professor of Irish at St. Columba's College: proposed by R. Hitchcock, Esq.

Jeremiah Kelly, Esq., M. D., Physician to the Government Prison, Parsonstown; and E. W. Costelloe, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Springfield, Moate: proposed by T. L. Cooke, Esq.

Ralph Westropp, Esq., Ravenswood, Carrigaline; and Edward Fitzgerald, Esq., Solicitor, Cork: proposed by John Windele, Esq.

T. Sheahan, Esq., A. B., Provincial Inspector of National Schools, Abbeyview, Thomastown: proposed by the Rev. John Browne, LL.D.

R. Long, Esq., M. D., Arthurstown, county of Wexford: proposed by R. Cane, Esq., M. D.

Mr. Michael White, Dunbel: proposed by Mr. J. G. A. Prim.

John W. Forrester, Esq., 107, Donegal-street, Belfast: proposed by Joseph White, Esq.

James Redmond Barry, Esq., Glandore, county of Cork : proposed by Mr. John O'Daly.

The following presentations were received, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors :—

By John Greene, Esq., M.P. : "The Antiquities of Shropshire," by the Rev. R. W. Eyton, Vol. I. parts 2, 3, and 4 ; and "Improvements in Printing, Invented and Patented by Major Beniowski."

By Master Thomas Lane : "The Life of William III.," London, 1703.

By the Council of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland : its "Journal," No. 41.

By the Committee of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History : its "Proceedings," Vol. II. No. 1.

By the Author : "Notes and Records of the Ancient Religious Foundations of Youghal and its Vicinity," by the Rev. Samuel Hayman.

By Richard Hitchcock, Esq. : the Sale Catalogues of the Manuscripts and Books of the late Sir William Betham, bound and interleaved.

By the Publisher : "The Builder," Nos. 587 to 595, inclusive.

By Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart. : an old engraving of Dunbrody Abbey.

By Timothy Glennon, Esq., Coventry : a print of the ancient Market-cross of that town, now destroyed.

By the Rev. James Graves : an ancient iron key, found in removing the earthen rampart of the town wall of Kilkenny, near Watters' Tower, at the new National Model School.

By Albert Way, Esq. : a gutta percha impression from the seal of Maud, daughter of Bartholomew de Badlesmere, by Margaret, co-heir of Thomas, second son of Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and Lord of Kilkenny. Her second husband was John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who died in 1306. The seal, which was a very beautiful specimen of the period, exhibited five shields, surrounded by Gothic ornamental work, being De Vere, De Clare, Badlesmere, De Clare with a difference (a label of three points), and Fitz-Payn, the lady's first husband.

By Richard Caulfield, Esq., Cork : a gutta percha cast, and drawings, the size of original, of the obverse and reverse of a silver pectoral cross, found at Bridgetown Abbey, county of Cork, and at present in his cabinet. The cross had been gilt, and was ornamented with four carbuncles, one in each arm, and in the centre a garnet cut in the shape of a parallelogram. The stones were of a fine colour, although they evidently had never been polished. It was not unlikely that, from the place of its discovery, this cross belonged to some of the early ecclesiastics of Bridgetown Abbey, its workmanship being apparently of the twelfth or thirteenth century.

By the Rev. John L. Irwin : a fragment of a Roman brick, from the castle of Dover.

By Messrs. J. F. MacCartan, W. Lawless, J. Griffiths, and Miss James : various ancient coins.

By Mr. D. M'Evoy, Urlingford : a magnificent specimen of the antique bronze cauldrons which seem to be peculiar to Ireland; and a St. Patrick's half-penny. Mr. M'Evoy accompanied his donation by the following observations :—

“ On the 23rd of May last, some men in the employment of Mr. Quinlan, of Urlingford, whilst engaged in cutting turf in the Bog of Allen, on the property of John Latouche, Esq., situate three miles distant from Urlingford, discovered, at a distance of seven feet below the surface of the peat, a curious antique vessel composed of three pieces of bronze, extremely thin, and fastened together in a very neat and workmanlike manner, by innumerable rivets, which are scarcely perceptible inside, but externally present small conical heads. The bottom piece of the vessel affords an admirable specimen of hammered work, forming in itself, without joint or seam, a perfect bowl, six feet six inches in its greatest circumference, and diminishing upwards to six feet. The height is then further increased by the riveting on of a broad band, consisting of two pieces of bronze, ‘as thin as a hare’s ear,’ and nine inches in depth. The upper rim is pierced with five holes, as if calculated to be riveted to a strong hoop, from which a strap, six inches long, and riveted at its extremity, appears to have passed down at either side, over the vertical joining, as if for the purpose of further strengthening the sides. The bottom is much thicker than the sides. The vessel, which stands one foot six inches in height, presents many skilful tinkerings, consisting of small thin plates of bronze riveted on, in the manner already described, over the holes. Although the cauldron is capable of containing about twenty gallons, it scarcely weighs 8lbs.

“ When the vessel was discovered, the finders carried their prize into Urlingford, but as they esteemed it only for the value of the metal, it was immediately purchased from them for a trifling sum by a local dealer in old iron and copper. Hearing of the circumstance, I considered myself bound, as a member of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, to investigate the entire matter and report upon it to the Secretaries, and having found no difficulty in repurchasing the ancient vessel from the broker, I am most happy to be able now to present it to the Museum of the Society. This remain of antiquity obviously must have been in the position in which it was found for very many centuries, as not only was it lighted upon at a depth of seven feet from the surface, and at a distance of a quarter of a mile from the arable land forming the outside margin of the bog, but the surrounding peat had evidently never been disturbed. There was no trace whatever of any embankment or work of art in that direction, the spot being in the centre of a wide expanse of red bog, except where a stream, called the Black River, much frequented by wild fowl in the winter months, intersects it, running close by the place where the discovery was made. The finders, and the neighbouring peasantry who examined the vessel, were much divided in opinion as to its origin and use; some being disposed to contend that it formed a portion of an ancient still, ‘in the time of the Danes;’

whilst others were inclined to speculate upon the probability of its having formed an antique kettle-drum; and the proximity of the spot in which it was turned up to the ruins of the old castle of Inchirourke led at once to its being attributed to the period of the celebrated O'Rourke, King of Breifne, the consort of the 'fair false one,' Dervorgilla. I need scarcely say, that I do not expect the Society to subscribe to either of these views, the vessel being evidently an ancient Irish 'coire,' or cauldron, and the largest of its kind which I have ever seen.

"I also present a copper coin found in the bog in the neighbourhood of the bronze vessel. It is one of the coin known as 'St. Patrick's money,'—the subject of the interesting discussion between Drs. Cane and Smith—and is a very good specimen of the half-penny so denominated. At the other side of the Black River, a little west of where the cauldron was discovered, some men cutting turf, about twenty years ago, found a number of human skeletons. And about ten years since, some turf-cutters engaged on the opposite bank of the stream, on the townland of Longford-pass, came upon a well-formed road twelve feet wide, the upper surface of which was composed of broken stones, like our present Macadamized pavement; this was covered over by seven feet of peat. Half a mile south of the place where the cauldron was come upon, and in the same bog, about six years ago, two antique swords were met with. It is said that they were presented by the finders to the proprietor of the land, Henry Langley, Esq., Archerstown. Three years since, another discovery was made in the same locality, about half a mile north-east of where the cauldron lay, on the property of Lord Mountgarret: three ancient and rudely formed firkins, containing a substance like butter or rendered lard, were raised out of the bog. The finder unfortunately broke the firkins, and disposed of the contents for a few pence."

Mr. M'Evoy's donation excited very great interest, and the Chairman said the Society was deeply indebted to that gentleman, whose example in saving from destruction this valuable relic of antiquity was worthy of general imitation, and, he trusted, would find many followers.

By Mr. John Feehan, Kilkenny: an ancient cast iron chimney-back; in size, one foot eleven inches, by one foot three inches. The margin was adorned with raised scroll-work and flower patterns, and it bore in the centre a bas-relief representing a thief unsuccessfully tempting with meat a dog which was guarding the doorway of a house. Above was the motto, "*fides dona superat*;" and below, the date 1656. This antique was discovered, in the course of altering, for business purposes, the house now occupied by Mr. Feehan, and in which the handsome ancient chimney-piece, described in the Proceedings of the May Meeting of the Society, had been found. The plate of metal was built horizontally into the wall, and above it occurred a substance like decayed silk. The casting was probably brought here by some of the Cromwellian settlers, as, although very uncommon in Ireland, chimney-backs of a similar kind frequently occur in old houses in England.

Mr. Graves took occasion to mention another instance of the good feeling fast growing up in the community, with respect to the preservation of antiquities. The ornamental stone chimneys of the old house of the Rothe family, situate in Coal-market, Kilkenny,¹ commonly known as Wolf's Arch, having become dilapidated and dangerous, he had offered to have them repaired at the expense of the Society, as he apprehended either that they would fall, or that the authorities would order them to be taken down as a nuisance to the public, which would seriously deface one of the finest of the Elizabethan buildings remaining in Kilkenny, as had already been the case with regard to two of the old houses in High-street. The lessee, Mr. Preston, had, however, at once taken the expense on himself, declining to allow the necessary reparation to fall upon the Society; he had taken down and carefully re-erected the stone work of the chimneys, scrupulously preserving their ancient character.

Mr. Prim called the attention of the meeting to a glass case, containing several articles found in the raths at Dunbel, in addition to the many curious remains already there discovered, and described in a paper which he had read before the Society in the year 1852.² Amongst those now exhibited was a double comb of bone, ornamented with an incised roundel pattern—a fac-simile of that discovered amongst the Saxon remains in the Barrow Furlong excavation in Northamptonshire (engraved in the “*Archæologia*,” vol. xxxiii. p. 332). There were also several bone pins, with perforated heads; a bone gouge, and a small ring of the same material; also a fragment of one of those circlets already described in his paper as resembling the English antiques, termed “Kimmeridge coal-money.” There was besides a curiously ornamented whet-stone, and three specimens of the “distaff weight” or “fairy mill-stone” class, but which might with more probability be supposed to have been used as rude substitutes for buttons. There were three bronze articles—a small nail-head pin, exhibiting some carving; a strip of bronze, showing the remains of an illegible mediæval inscription; and a small, flat, round box, about the size and thickness of a half-crown, consisting of two parts hinged together, and showing the remains of eyes for fastenings. The iron implements comprised the remains of several pins and knife-blades, a pendant ornament for the bridle, and a good specimen of the small shears, also frequently found in Anglo-Saxon barrows. Since the May Meeting of the Society, excavations had been carried on under the direction of the Secretaries in the largest and most perfect of the raths on the townland, for the purpose of ascertaining if it contained souterrains. The

¹ For a notice of this Elizabethan mansion see a paper, by the Rev. J. Graves, on “Ancient Street Architec-

ture in Kilkenny,” in the “*Transactions*,” vol. i. p. 45.

² See “*Transactions*,” vol. ii. p. 119.

result, however, was negative, as it was ascertained that the rath had been formed by taking advantage of a natural knoll of hard, marly gravel, which remained undisturbed. Few or no implements or ornaments were found in this large rath, but several fragments of Kilkenny coal occurred four feet beneath the surface, proving that the use of that mineral was very early known in the district.

Sir Erasmus Dixon Borrowes, Bart., contributed the following curious extracts from the old Dublin newspaper termed "Pue's Occurrences," vol. xxxv., No. 8, January, 1737-8:—

"John Walsh, who keeps the Kilkenny stage coach, gives notice, that he will set out from Dublin and Kilkenny precisely at 7 o'clock in the morning, on every Monday and Thursday, during the summer, and run through in two days (accidents excepted). Twenty pound weight of luggage will be allowed to every person, and one penny per pound to be paid for all weight over.

"The coach will continue to set out at 6 o'clock in the morning, 'till the 25th of March next, and all persons who take seats are to be ready at that time, or losse their passages. The rates are as formerly, viz. 12s from Dublin to Kilkenny, 10s to Leighlin Bridge, 9s to Carlow, 8s to Castledermot, 7s to Timolin, 5s 5d to Kilcullen, and 4s to Naas.

"N. B.—Said Walsh gives notice that he will not be answerable for any money, goods, &c., given in charge to the coachman, which are his perquisite."

The following advertisement, giving an insight into the household arrangements of the day, was also from the same volume:—

"The dwelling house of Valentine Smyth, Esq., at Damagh, in the county of Kilkenny, being on the 27th February last [1737] in the night time surrounded by 17 or 18 persons, and 5 of them having with sledges broke in the gates and doors thereof, and having grossly beat and abused said Mr. Smyth and his family, in a most inhuman manner, and having afterwards robbed and taken out of said house 1 pair of silver candlesticks, weighing 10 ounces, 9 penny [dwts.], 1 snuffers and snuffdish, 2 salts, 1 pint cup with 2 handles, 2 salvers each weighing 5 ounce. 9 penny. 10 gr., 1 old fashion ladle, 1 small mustard pot, 1 small pepper box (all said plate having a dove and olive branch engraved thereon), 1 gold watch, made by John King, London, with a large garnett seal set in gold, the impression being a woman bearing a sceptre, a shell snuff box, a mother of pearl box, bound in three places with silver, and a hole in the top piece, as big as a pin's head, 2 five guinea pieces, several Jacobuses, Caroluses, jewels, medals, and rings, 27 Holland shirts, and many pieces of women's wearing linen, a dark grey close-bodied cloath coat lined with black, a mixed drab close-bodied coat, a superfine black cloath vest lined with a white shagrine silk, and a breeches of the same cloth, 3 drab riding coats, and several other wearing apparel. Whoever, therefore, who shall discover any of the said persons or goods, so as such persons shall be convicted, shall have a reward from said Mr. Smyth of 20 guineas; and if any of said persons will dis-

cover the rest, so as any of them shall be apprehended and convicted, such person shall have the like reward, and his pardon procured.”¹

The following communication was received from Edward Hoare, Esq., Cork, to whose kindness the Society is indebted for the wood engravings of the fac-similes which illustrate the curious bill of lading comprised in his paper:—

“A few years since, a gentleman, residing in the neighbourhood of the city of Cork, found, among some family documents and papers, an early bill of lading or shipping, of the year 1691, consigning some wine and brandy from Lisbon to a merchant of Cork, of the name of Joseph Hoare, and supposing it might have been addressed to some member of my own family, and also knowing that I was attached to antiquarian and genealogical pursuits, he very kindly presented it to me. I send a fac-simile of it for insertion in the Proceedings of the Kilkenny Archæological Society.”²

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Shippd by the grace of God in good order, an Wel conditioned by *mee Robert Dowding* — „ — „ — „ in and vpon the good Ship called the *Senhora de Penha de Franca of Faro* — „ — „ — „ whereof is Master vnder God for this present voyage *Manoel Martins*. „ — „ — „ and now riding at ankor in the *River of Lixboa* — and by Gods grace bound for *Corke In Ireland* — to say *Sixe pipes of Red Portugall wine & two small cask of Brandy, For y^e Prop^r acco^t &c Resque of Mr Jos: Hoare & Comp^{ys} m^rch^{ts} Cork.* being marked and numbred as in the margent and are to be deliuered in the like good order and wel conditioned at the afore-said Port of *Cork In Ireland*. (the danger of the seas only excepted) vnto said *Mr Joseph Hoare & Comp^y* — „ — „ — „ — „ — „ — „ or to *their assignes*, he or they paying. freight for the said goods *Twenty two Pounds. fifteen Shillings for the whole* — With primage, & auarage accustomed. In Winesse Whereof the Master or purser of the said ship hath affirmed to three Bills of Lading: all of this tenor & date, the one of which three bills being. accöplished the other two to stand void: And so God send the good Ship to her desired Port in safety. Amen. Dated in *Lixboa the 20th of September 1691.*

mes m^s

¹ For an account of the family of Smyth, of Damagh, see “Transactions,” vol. i. p. 260; and vol. ii. p. 187.

² The words printed in Italics in the bill of lading are, in the original, filled up in writing.

"The Mr. Joseph Hoare therein mentioned was at that day an extensive wine merchant in Cork, and the immediate ancestor of the present Messrs. Hoare, the partners in the eminent banking firm of Messrs. Barnett, Hoare, and Company, of 62, Lombard-street, London. He was the younger brother of my own immediate ancestor, Alderman Edward Hoare, of Cork and Dunkittle, in the county of Cork, who was a banker and wine merchant also in that city, and who served the office of sheriff thereof in 1684, and mayor in 1686. Their mother was Miss Mary Woodcock, daughter of John Woodcock, Esq., of Kilronane, in the county of Kilkenny. She was married to Captain, afterwards Major, Edward Hoare, who came over to this country with Ireton in 1649, and settled here, having received large grants of lands near Dunmanway, in the county of Cork, now the property of his descendant, in the eldest direct line, Sir Edward Hoare, Bart.

"This little document, now nearly 163 years old, and in the most perfect state of preservation, though totally valueless immediately after it had served its intended purpose, is at present of much value and interest, and not without its use, for it shows us that, bad as our own present times may be considered by some, at least, in one respect, 'the good old times,' as they have been termed, were certainly not much better, as from the immense sum paid for the freight alone (for which you would now get nearly the same amount of articles, or at least a large proportion thereof, and, perhaps, much better), not taking into account the first cost of the articles, the harbour, and other dues, the shipping, landing, and various other charges, besides the Government duty, wine and brandy could only have been within the reach of the very wealthy, and totally prohibited articles to the lower, and even the middle classes; and perhaps, had we within our reach or view similar and other like documents, regarding many of the importations or wants of former times, we might be induced to think ourselves more fortunate, in many respects, than some of those who have preceded and gone before us, and 'strutted their little hour upon life's weary stage.'"

Mr. Michael Kearney, Limerick, a zealous member of the Society, presented the original of the following very curious bill, which gives us a graphic insight into the life of the Bar, when on circuit in Ireland, in the last century:—

July y^e 12th, 1722. The Corpration of Waterford Dr. to Will^m Eeles, for Entertaining the Judg^{es} att y^e Assies^{es}.

Y ^e 12, to 2 Botles of Clerrett, & 2 bottles of white-			
wine to the Judg ^{es} lodgings, at noone . . .	0	5	0
To one Botle of Sack	[torn away]		
To Lemons the same time	0	6	5
To their Super	1	5	0
To 19 Botles of wine att Super	1	5	4
To (sic) Botles of Porte wine	0	3	4
To Bread att Super	0	1	2
To one Doseon & ten Lemons	0	4	7
To Sug ^r	0	1	0
To ale, Pips & Tobaco	0	2	8

Y ^e 13, The Judg ^{ss} Diner	5	10	0
To four Doson & 2 Botles of Clarr ^t at Din ^{er}	3	6	8
To 2 Doson of white wine	1	8	0
To one Botle of Porte	0	1	8
To 2 Doson & 4 Lemons and oranges	0	5	10
To 2 Quarts of Rum	0	5	0
To Sug ^{er} Round	0	2	0
To Bread	0	4	5
To $\frac{1}{2}$ a p ^d . of Duble Refined Sug ^{er}	0	0	10
To the Chearemen	0	0	6
To Ale Pips & Tobaco	0	14	10
To Ale to y ^e Stuartt	0	0	11

£15 11 11

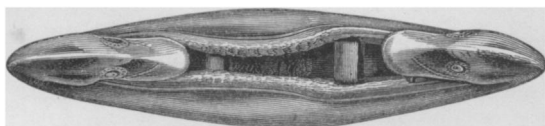
S^r—Plase to pay unto Mr. Will: Eeles the sum of fifteen pound a liven shilings and a liven pence being for intertensing y^e Judges the 12 of Jully at Super and the 13th ditto at dinner, and place the same in your accountps to y^e Corpuration. This 28 of September, 1722.

THOMAS AIKENHEAD, May^{or}.

To Ald^m Fra: Barker
Citty Resever.

Mr. Graves said that, in accordance with a promise made by him at the March Meeting of the Society, he begged leave to submit a few additional observations relative to the unique and highly curious pastoral staff-head deposited in their Museum by Mr. Blake [for accurate illustrations of which, drawn and engraved by Mr. W. Oldham, of Dublin, see plate facing page 138]. He (Mr. Graves) had, since that period, exhibited the antique to Drs. Todd, Graves, and Petrie, and also at a meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, and had sent drawings of it to Mr. Albert Way, the distinguished English archæologist. The judgment of all was, that, so far as Ireland was concerned, it was *unique*, and of the utmost interest. Opinions were divided as to its use. Dr. Todd, in the course of some observations made by him at the meeting of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, held on the 3rd March last, expressed the opinion that it bore a striking resemblance to the pastoral staff carried by bishops and abbots of the Greek Church, of which the handle, or cross-piece, was formed by two heads of dragons, or some other animal, turned upwards, and recurved. In this view Dr. Todd was confirmed by the opinions of Messrs. Westwood and Nightingale, the former of whom said that similar objects were represented in the magnificent work on the “Antiquities of the Greek Church,” of which a copy had been recently acquired for the British Museum; whilst the latter gentleman observed that he had frequently *seen* pastoral staffs in use in the Oriental Churches bearing a close resemblance to this Irish remain. Mr. Way, in a private letter to him (Mr. Graves), seemed to doubt this resemblance, and suggested caution in assum-

ing that there is “decidedly a Greek-Church influence in this curious staff-head.” Mr. Way had kindly forwarded a sketch, copied from a plate in the Abbé Texier’s “Recueil des Inscriptions du Limousin,” of a staff-head found in the tomb (as supposed) of Gérard, Bishop of Limoges, who died in 1022. This staff had a carved ivory cross-piece, apparently terminating in two dogs’ heads; the heads, however, were *not* recurved, and there was a fitting and comfortable rest for the hand at top; whereas, as might be seen from the accompanying plate, in the case of the Kilkenny staff-head the recurved heads came so close as to preclude this use, whilst two bars crossing the aperture apparent between them would seem to indicate that a cross, or crook, protruded therefrom, when the instrument was perfect. Mr. Blake, indeed, suggested that the symbolism of the *boat*-shaped head, with crook or cross protruding therefrom, was most appropriate, the *navis* having been the symbol of the Church from the earliest times. However the matter might be determined, it was a subject for congratulation to the members of this Society, that it had been the means of making known to the antiquarian world a new type of that most interesting class of Irish antiquities—the crozier, or pastoral staff; and they were much indebted to Mr. Blake for depositing it in their Museum. Mr. Blake’s account of the staff was as follows:—He is not able to say how it came into his family, or to what part of Ireland it originally belonged: his longest recollection of it is as a plaything for the children of the house. When first he knew it, it was about two feet long in the staff, and had two more knobs or bosses of intertwined lacertine work below that still remaining: the staff was covered with thin plates of silver, and this, probably, excited the cupidity of servants, and caused the staff to be reduced to its present scanty dimensions. As to its material, the staff appeared to be of yew timber; over this was laid a thin coating of silver plate, of which some fragments remained below the boss of bronze which still adorned the antique. The boat-shaped head, and also that portion of the staff inserted into the remaining boss, was of bronze, and nearly devoid of ornament. The recurved dragon heads had the eyes filled in, two with red enamel, and two with silver, each head having one eye of silver and the other of enamel. Mr. Graves stated it to be his opinion that a cross of the character of the cross of Cong, preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, originally protruded between the bars which cross the inside of the present boat-shaped termination of the staff [the accompanying engravings, made to a scale half the size of the original, give a front view of one side of the antique, as also a representation of the boat-shaped portion when seen vertically: they are scrupulously faithful, representing even the injuries which the original has sustained, and from which the orifice at top has especially suffered].



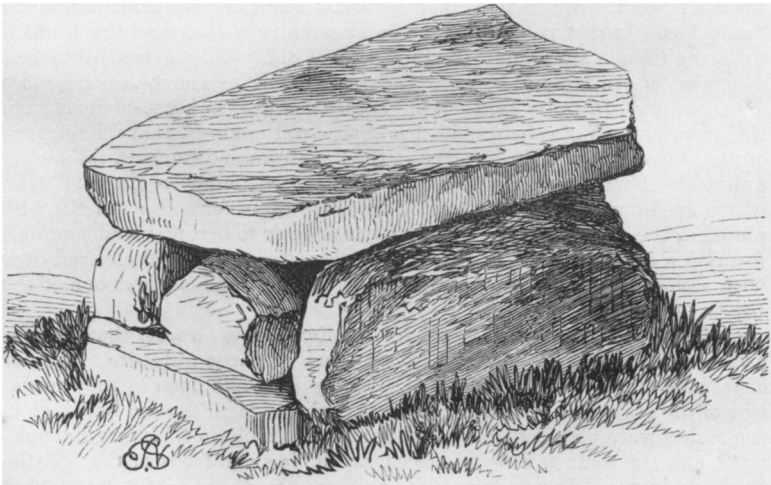
VERTICAL VIEW.—Scale, somewhat less than one-half.



SIDE VIEW.—Scale of one-half.

Mr. Henry P. Clarke, on presenting a quantity of calcined human bones, submitted the following observations respecting them:—

“I beg to present to the Society the contents of a small stone sepulchral cist discovered at Kilcreene, near the city of Kilkenny, in May last. Whilst walking over the grounds in company with a friend, he drew my attention to some rude stones slightly projecting from the bottom of a bank in the gravel pit at the rear of Mr. Edmund Smithwick’s residence. On examination we found them to form a cist composed of six unhewn stones. One, placed flat, at the bottom of the gravel, rested on the stratum of yellow clay, and supported four others on edge, which formed the head, foot, and sides of the cist, and on these rested a cap stone, three feet eight inches by one foot six inches, remarkably flat and smooth, but, like the rest, unworked, and which was evidently carefully selected for the purpose. The stones, six in all, are of the lime-stone of the neighbourhood. We found the internal measurement of the cist to be one foot nine inches in length by one foot four inches in breadth, and nine inches in depth; its longest direction being N.N.E. and S.S.W. The clay upon which it rested is five feet beneath the surface of the gravel, which here forms a rising slope over the adjacent pond or river. The accompanying engraving, from a sketch by the Rev. James Graves, represents the cist as it appeared when divested of the gravel



Cist discovered at Kilcreene.

and earth which covered it. The top of the cist was but three feet from the surface. Having carefully taken out the contents, they were found to consist of the calcined human bones now presented to the Society, mixed with which was a fine white dust, which appeared to be rather decayed bone than ashes. Neither charcoal, nor implements or ornaments of any kind, were apparent, although we made a careful search for them. I should

remark, that the fragments of the bones are quite hard and sound, and give a kind of metallic ring when struck. The situation in which they were deposited is, however, remarkably free from moisture, which may partly account for their high state of preservation. Having submitted some of these remains to a medical man, he was of opinion, from the size of the under jaw-bone, and the distorted shape (arising from softness under the action of fire) of others, that they were those of a young person. I have placed together some portions of the skull as worthy, perhaps, of further examination.

"It was impossible to ascertain if this tomb had any sort of earthen mound or other memorial on the surface above it to mark its position. I believe such tombs have been found in the centre of tumuli, and, like this, sometimes beneath the natural surface of the ground. If any such elevation of the ground were ever here, all indications of it had completely disappeared.

"As to the age of this tomb, which evidently belongs to the period when it was the custom to burn the dead, I understand this practice had totally disappeared about the eighth century, the practice having been expressly forbidden by Irish ecclesiastical canons about this period; so that we cannot, according to this view, assign to it a less antiquity than one thousand years. But to what more remote period we may refer it I cannot say, for it has not, I believe, been ascertained when the custom of burning the dead began. Mr. Wright, in his work, 'The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon,' asserts that it was not generally established amongst the Romans until the time of the Dictator Sylla, 80 years B. C. Supposing this to have been the case in Ireland, it is, of course, possible to ascribe to this tomb an antiquity of twenty centuries. It is, I believe, now ascertained from the examinations of cairns and other sepulchral mounds, that the burying of the body entire was here, as among the Etruscans and Romans, the earlier practice. I would remark, that Roman tombs found in England, and which are known to be those of the poor, are often formed of six flat tiles placed in the ground in a precisely similar manner to that now under notice, forming a cist in which the calcined bones were placed, and covered over with a small mound of earth. Perhaps the Kilcreene cist was one of the tombs of the poor.

"It has been suggested to me by the Rev. James Graves, that, as he is aware of several primæval cemeteries comprising large numbers of similar cists, here also there may be others, which will be laid open as the excavation of the gravel pit proceeds.¹ By permission of Mr. Edmund Smithwick, the stones were placed together as nearly as possible in their original positions, and the tomb is now to be seen on the lawn in front of that gentleman's residence. It was impossible to leave the cist where it was found, on account of the excavation being continued."

¹ I have since learned that, nearly about the time when I was engaged reading the above few notes to the Society, Mr. Graves' anticipations have been realized; another cist, formed of six small and rude boulderstones, placed in a circle, and covered by a cap-stone,

has been opened close to that above described. It contained calcined bones, but, unlike the others, mixed with charcoal. No implements or ornaments were found in it. The cist last discovered was about three feet under the surface.

Several of the members present expressed a hope that Mr. Smithwick would inform the Society of any further discoveries of this nature made on his lands.

The following papers were then submitted to the Meeting.

ON THE IRISH PEWTER COINS OF JAMES II.

BY AQUILLA SMITH, ESQ., M.D., M.R.I.A.

THE enormous quantity of brass and copper crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and six-pences which had been put into circulation within nine months from June, 1689, being found insufficient to meet the necessities of the King, he resolved to coin money of less intrinsic and current value; and accordingly, on the 1st of March, 1689-90,¹ a warrant was issued to the Commissioners of the Mint, whereby it was ordered that two sorts of coin were to be made, of a white, mixed metal, to pass current in Ireland; the one about the size of a [brass] shilling, having on one side the King's head, with the inscription, *Jacobus i^{idus} Dei gratiâ*, and on the other side having a piece of prince's metal² fixed in the middle, with the stamp of the harp and crown, and the inscription, *Mag. Bri. Fra. et Hib. Rex.*, along with the date, which piece was to pass for a penny; and the other piece, about the bigness of a [brass] six-pence, to be made of the like metal, and stamped on both sides, in like manner, and with the inscription aforesaid, to pass for a half-penny. The Commissioners were authorized to coin such pieces from time to time till further order.³

On the 28th of March, 1690, only four weeks after the date of the warrant for making the pewter coins, which were intended to remedy the scarcity of pence and half-pence, a proclamation was issued, in which the warrant of the 1st of March was recited, and all persons were ordered to receive at their peril, "at the rates aforesaid, in all payments," the said money which was made current for present necessity, and not intended to continue for any long time. It was further proclaimed that, as soon as the said money should be decried or made null, that it should be received in payment for all rents, duties, or debts due to the Crown, or that full satisfaction for the same would be given in gold or silver of the current coin.⁴

Simon says that, "in March, 1690, three new and different kinds

¹ The dates in James the Second's reign are computed according to the civil or ecclesiastical year, which commenced on the 25th of March.

² An alloy of copper and zinc, which

contains more copper than brass does, and is known as Prince Rupert's metal.

³ Simon on Irish Coins, Appendix, No. lxxxiii.

⁴ Simon, Appendix, No. lxxxiv.